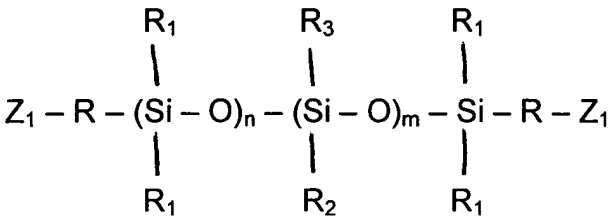
IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims have been amended as indicated below wherein added words are underlined and deleted words are {braced}.

Claims 1-7 (Withdrawn)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of producing {the} prepolymer precursors {of claim 1}



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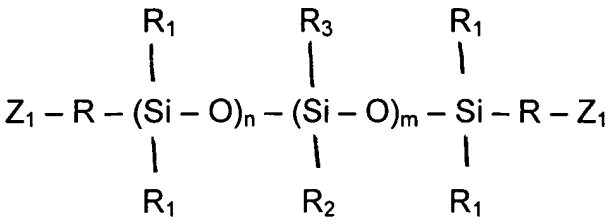
wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated $C_{1\text{-}10}$ hydrocarbon substituents; the R_1 groups may be the same or different $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl substituents; the R_2 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl substituents, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ fluoroalkyl substituents, and $C_{2\text{-}20}$ alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R_3

groups may be the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and $–NH_2$, comprising:

reacting 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane or 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane with at least one silane selected from the group consisting of dimethyldimethoxysilane, diphenyldimethoxysilane and methylphenyldimethoxysilane.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of producing {the} prepolymer precursors {of claim 1}



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wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C_{1-10} hydrocarbon substituents; the R_1 groups may be the same or different C_{1-10} alkyl substituents; the R_2 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl substituents, C_{1-10} fluoroalkyl substituents, and C_{2-20} alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R_3 groups may be the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and $–NH_2$, comprising:

reacting 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane or 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane with at least one cyclic polysiloxane selected from the group consisting of 1,3,5-trimethyl-1,3,5-triphenylcyclotrisiloxane, 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane and 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexaphenylcyclotrisiloxane.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8 or 9 wherein said 1,3-bis-hydroxyalkyl polysiloxane is 1,3-bis-hydroxybutyltetramethyldisiloxane.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 8 or 9 wherein said 1,3-bis-aminoalkyl polysiloxane is 1,3-bis-aminopropyltetramethyldisiloxane.

Claims 12–29 (Withdrawn)

Should there be any questions regarding this preliminary amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita D. Vacca
Reg. No. 33,624

Correspondence address:
Rita D. Vacca
Bausch & Lomb, Inc.
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604-2701